



Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings May 29, 2017 Vol. 4, No. 17

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov

Back Issues of Monday Musing are available [here](#).

“A person’s maturity consists in having found again the seriousness one had as a child, at play.”

-Friedrich Nietzsche

State Information

ISU Extension and Outreach Offers FREE Wellness Program

ISU Extension and Outreach is excited about offering [What About Me? My Wellbeing](#) as our outreach wellness program, a four-week educational workshop series available at **no cost** to agencies, businesses, and other interested groups. Each workshop is 45 minutes making it possible that the information could be shared during staff lunch breaks. During each session, important information about the topic is shared and participants engage in hands-on learning and discussion. Each session closes with participants developing personal plans for their own wellbeing. The introductory, research-based program covers taking time for oneself, relationships, finances and physical health. We recommend between 6 to 25 participants at each session. If you would like to assist your employees or group with starting a journey toward improved wellbeing, contact Malisa Rader at mrader@iastate.edu or your local ISU Extension and Outreach human sciences specialist.

Federal Information:

Technology Privacy and Security Considerations

The federal Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently released a [brief](#) that discusses privacy and security considerations related to the use of technology in early childhood settings. The brief is entitled *The Use of Technology to Support Early Childhood Practice: Protecting Child, Parent, and Practitioner Privacy*. It provides best practices to guide early childhood programs in strengthening the safeguards to protect child, parent, and practitioner information as programs increasingly incorporate technology to improve practice. It draws on guidance developed by ED's [Privacy Technical Assistance Center](#).

Message from U.S. Department of Education Acting Assistant Secretaries Monique M. Chism, Ph.D. and Ruth Ryder

This month we are delighted to discuss the importance of not only increasing opportunities for early learning, but also of expanding quality in early learning programs and services. In this edition of the *Early Learning* newsletter, we have highlighted resources that focus on high-quality early learning.

We also are pleased to spotlight a recent interview with the secretary of Alabama's Department of Early Childhood Education, Jeana Ross, who has led her state in expanding its voluntary pre-K program to all of Alabama's counties, as well as increasing funding to home visiting and family support services. Ross expounds on strategies used in Alabama for maintaining high quality in early learning programs while expanding opportunities.

In addition to our focus on high-quality early learning, this month's newsletter touches on the importance of **building the birth-to-third-grade continuum** and supporting local efforts to do so. The Department's [early learning work](#) has long emphasized the need to align education across the pre-K and school-age "divide."

Other Information:



Child Care Grant and Proposal Writing

A First Children's Finance Child Care Business Management Workshop

Child care center directors, owners, and board members! Join us for a hands-on day with First Children's Finance, learning new ways to reach out and touch your partners, stakeholders and funders through excellent grant applications and funding proposals.

This 6-hour workshop is designed for all levels, from beginners to those who would like to take a fresh look. Come with ideas of what your child care program needs and let First Children's Finance's experienced staff assist you in developing your ideas and proposal. Plan to leave this seminar equipped with ideas, tools and a great start to succeed in your next funding opportunity.

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About this Training

Credit Hours

Provides 6 hours of Iowa DHS training credit and NAC renewal hours.

Target Audience

Directors, owners or board members of child care centers or preschools.

Training Level

Level 1 (Beginner), Level 2 (Skilled) and Level 3 (Mastery)

Content Area

5- Strategies to manage an effective program operation.

Registration

\$45 per person (lunch included). You will receive an email confirmation within one week of registering that will include payment information.

Additional funding support is provided by Northwest Area Foundation and Iowa Department of Human Services.

Dates and Locations

Sioux City- **June 16, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

Council Bluffs- **June 17, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

MORE INFORMATION/REGISTER**Or Contact:**

Angie Rae Duncan, Senior Business Development Specialist

Angie@FirstChildrensFinance.org or (515) 229-5064

Jillian Herink Named Iowa AEYC New Executive Director

Jillian Herink will assume her new position as Iowa AEYC Executive Director in June as current Executive Director Barbara Merrill transitions into retirement by the end of the month. Jillian has experience in classroom teaching (math) and educational leadership in 3-year old preschool through 12th grade as principal and superintendent. She has taught for the Marshalltown Community School District and the Meskwaki Settlement School as well as had led the Meskwaki Settlement School as a principal and superintendent.

Jillian comes to us with a wide array of knowledge and skill sets that will aid the Association through the restructuring and re-affiliation with the NAEYC. She is well versed in systems building and working alongside Boards of Directors. She is thorough in her thinking, analysis, and application of information and skills, which will be highly valued in the Association's completion and ongoing assessment of its Strategic Plan 2020.

The Iowa AEYC Affiliate is excited to welcome Jillian Herink to the role of Executive Director. Please reach out and introduce yourself and your role at jherink@iowaaeyc.org.

Trauma-Informed Care Conference

The TIC Conference registration is now open. The conference is on **June 6 & 7, 2017** at the Airport Holiday Inn (Des Moines). The link to register is <http://tinyurl.com/TIC2017hm>

The conference *Trauma-Informed Care: The Impact of Trauma on Brain Development and What To Do About It* is scheduled for two days with Day 2 building on the content of Day 1.

Over the course of this two day training experts Dr. Bruce D. Perry from The Child Trauma Academy and Dr. J. Stuart Ablon from Think:Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital will come together to make complicated neurodevelopmental concepts accessible and provide a practical evidence-based process for trauma-informed intervention that all adults can follow in any setting.

Dr. Perry and Dr. Ablon will integrate The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics (NMT) and Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS). You will learn an overview of both of these approaches and practical examples of strategies for their integrated implementation. It will build on two years of collaboration between Dr. Perry and Dr. Ablon to combine the models in practical clinical application. The conference is intended both for those new to NMT and/or CPS or those skilled in their application.

Also, the documentary “*Resilience*” will be shown on Wed, June 7th from 7:30-8:30am and is open to the public. You do not have to register for the conference to view the documentary.

State of Preschool 2016--Change is in the Air (NIEER)

NIEER has released [The State of Preschool 2016](#), showing state-funded preschool program enrollment reached an all-time high, serving nearly 1.5 million children; state funding for preschool rose 8 percent to about \$7.4 billion, and state funding per child exceeded pre-recession levels for the first time. But our evaluation also reveals how much more states must do to provide high quality preschool.

The Yearbook tells a story of growing inequality in access to high-quality preschool as some states invested in providing high-quality preschool for all children and others did little, or nothing. In 18 states, we found federal Preschool Development Grants (PDGs) were used to expand enrollment and enhance programs. PDGs funded nearly half the increase in enrollment of 4-year-olds.

The PDG program was designed to accomplish this goal, but the new administration’s budget would eliminate the \$249 million program. Rather than cutting PDG, we argue for doubling funding for some form of competitive grants to states would allow the federal government to incentivize high quality pre-K in the majority of states, while still the size of a dust mote in the federal budget.

In addition, NIEER’s report recommends the federal government support a national pre-K quality audit of public and private preschool programs. Parents and taxpayers deserve to know to the extent to which pre-K programs in their state provide a good early education and how this varies by auspice. The last nationwide study of pre-K quality in 2005 found that most classrooms, private and public, were not good. Yet, high quality is needed in order to provide young children the strong start in school and life that can make a lasting difference.

For the first time, NIEER this year introduced major revisions to the [quality standards benchmarks](#) focusing on policies that more directly support continuous improvement of classroom quality. These new benchmarks are providing the GPS to guide policymakers toward sound investments in our children’s futures.

[The State of Preschool Yearbook](#) provides a guide for states and valuable information for parents and policymakers. But only an impartial assessment of children’s experiences in the classroom can tell whether we are headed in the right direction.

Iowa Early Care & Education 2017 Institute registration now open

Iowa AEYC is pleased to announce registration is now open for the Iowa Early Care & Education Fall Institute, **Power to the Profession**. Discounted registration rates are available for members and for those who register before the end of August. You may go to our website, <http://www.iowaaeyc.org/iowa-aeyc-institutes.cfm> For registration information, updates on special events, and more information over the next three months. We appreciate you sharing this information with your employees, colleagues, members, and others who might be interested.

As you may have year-end funds available and needing to be spent in June, an AEYC membership is one way you can help teachers and providers in your area attend this Institute at a reduced price.

Developing Culturally Responsive Approaches to Serving Diverse Populations: A Resource Guide for Community-Based Organizations

As the U.S. grows more diverse, community based organizations (CBOs) are serving an increasingly diverse group of children and families. In this changing environment, developing cultural competence—behaviors, attitudes, and policies that enable organizations to work effectively in cross-cultural situations—is critical.

A [new resource guide](#) from the [National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families](#) helps community-based organizations find relevant resources for choosing, adapting, or developing interventions; ensuring workforce diversity; budgeting for culturally competent programs, and more.

For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:

<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/>

To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

2017 ECI Meeting Calendar:

ECI State Board

10:00 – 1:00

June 2

September 8

November 3

ECI Stakeholders Alliance

3 – 4 Hour meetings

September 12 (AM)

December 12 (PM)

ECI Area Directors

(June will be regional meetings)

September 12 (afternoon)

December 6 All day

ECI Steering Committee

Time Varies

June 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 3 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)